II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Original) A method of identifying the presence or absence of an agglomeration complex from a sample matrix obtained from an individual comprising the following steps:

(a) forming an admixture of said sample matrix with one or more nucleic acids, wherein said one or more nucleic acids are obtained from a nucleotide antibody library;

(b) incubating said admixture of step (a) under conditions suitable to form at least one agglomeration complex, wherein said agglomeration complex is represented by the following formula:

$$[A_x B_y C_z]$$

wherein A represents a protein and x is an integer having a value from one to infinity, B is a cellular binding cofactor, wherein said binding cofactor participates in the formation of the complex, and y is an integer having a value from 1 to infinity, and C is a nucleic acid selected from said library of nucleic acid antibodies and z is an integer having a value from 1 to infinity, wherein at least one of the groups consisting of A and B are present in said sample matrix, and the complex represented in brackets does not imply any order in A, B, or C, and A, B and C form an agglomeration complex through non-covalent bonds;

(c) detecting said agglomeration complex.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said agglomeration complex exhibits decreased solubility in which said sample matrix is obtained from an individual affected with a prion-based disease.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said agglomeration complex exhibits increased stability in the presence of proteolytic enzymes.

Claim 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said proteolytic enzyme is protease K.

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said agglomeration complex is isolated from said sample matrix to form an isolation product.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said agglomeration complex is separated into components A, B and C.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said components A, B, and C are identified and compared to components derived from a second sample matrix obtained from a second individual who is unaffected by a prion-based disease.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide antibody library is derived from naturally occurring NA.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide antibody library is derived from non-naturally occurring NA.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said nucleotide antibody library comprises RQ11+12 (SEQ ID No. 1), MDV (SEQ ID No. 2), MNV (SEQ ID No. 3), MNV-AP1 (SEQ ID No. 4), MNVUP (SEQ ID No. 5), MNVLO RNA (SEQ ID No. 6), and combinations thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide antibody library is derived from an individual exhibiting symptoms of a prion-based disease.

Claim 12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said protein has at least two

functional conformations, a first active conformation, and a second inactive conformation.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cellular binding factor is selected from the family of lipoproteins.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cellular binding factor is fibronectin.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said protein is human recombinant prion protein.

Claim 16. (Original) A composition associated with an agglomeration complex, wherein said agglomeration complex is represented by the following formula:

$$[A_x B_y C_z]$$

wherein A represents a protein and x is an integer having a value from one to infinity, B is a cellular binding cofactor, wherein said binding cofactor participates in the formation of the complex through non-covalent interactions with macromolecules, and y is an integer having a value from 1 to infinity, and C is a nucleic acid selected from a library of nucleic acid antibodies and z is an integer having a value from 1 to infinity, wherein at least one of the groups consisting of A and B are present in said sample matrix, and wherein the complex represented in brackets does not imply any order in A, B, or C, and A, B and C form a complex through non-covalent bonds and non hybridization affinity.

Claim 17. (Original) The composition of claim 16, wherein at least one of the group consisting of A and B are present in a sample matrix of an individual exhibiting symptoms of the disease from which the agglomeration complex is associated.

Claim 18. (Original) The composition of claim 16, wherein said agglomeration complex exhibits decreased solubility in which said sample matrix is obtained from an individual affected with a prion-based disease.

Claim 19. (Original) The composition of claim 16, wherein A is a prion-protein.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 16, wherein said nucleotide antibody library comprises RQ11+12 (SEQ ID No. 1), MDV (SEQ ID No. 2), MNV (SEQ ID No. 3), MNV-AP1 (SEQ ID No. 4), MNVUP (SEQ ID No. 5), MNVLO RNA (SEQ ID No. 6) and combinations thereof.

Claims 21-33. (Canceled)

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 to 20 will be pending after the entry of this amendment. Claims 10 and 20 have been amended to reflect the corresponding sequence identifiers. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application as originally filed, e.g., on pages 10 and 11. Claims 21 to 33 were previously cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

B. Objections to the Specification

In the Office Action and the Notice to Comply with Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures, the Examiner objected to the specification, stating that the specification (drawings or Brief Description thereof) needed to be revised to insert sequence identifiers. In response, Applicants have amended the second sentence in the third full paragraph of page 12; the first sentence in the second full paragraph of page 13; the third sentence in the third full paragraph of page 16; the second sentence in the third full paragraph of page 17; the second sentence in the second full paragraph of page 18 and the third sentence in the third full paragraph of page 18 to correctly identify the sequences recited therein.

IV. Conclusion

A response to the July 11, 2007 Office Action is due August 11, 2007. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed. Therefore, it is believed that no fees are due. If any additional fees are deemed due or overpayment made in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of any such fee or credit an overpayment to Attorney Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

In view of all of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the July 11, 2007 Office Action. Applicants believe that claims 1 to 20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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